

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8157

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 08507

GENEVA FOR MEPCDEL

E. O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, FR

SUBJECT: SADAT LETTER TO GISCARD ON PARTICIPATION IN
GENEVA TALKS

1. QUAI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE LEVANT DE LA
BELLEISSUE HAS CONFIRMED TO US THE RECEIPT BY GISCARD
OF A LONG LETTER FROM SADAT EXPRESSING THE HOPE (SOUHAIT)
THAT FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA MEPC.
BELLEISSUE INDICATED THAT THE LETTER WAS TRANSMITTED
THROUGH THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO, THAT ITS TONE
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WAS VERY WARM, THAT IT CONTAINED NO CRITICISM OF THE

SECRETARY, BUT THAT IT HIT HARD AT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE.

2. BELLEISSUE SAID THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND THAT THE AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST GENEVA CONFERENCE IS REQUIRED TO INVITE ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES. HE THOUGHT THE THREE ARAB STATES AND THE USSR WOULD WELCOME FRENCH PARTICIPATION, WHILE THE ISRAELIS WOULD OPPOSE IT. INDICATING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE US REACTION WOULD BE, HE SAID HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION ON OUR POSITION. HE SAID THE FRENCH WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO TO GENEVA IF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS ARE AGREEABLE BUT EMPHASIZED THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE INVITING ITSELF.

3. COMMENTING ON RECENT MIDEAST EVENTS, BELLEISSUE SAID HE THOUGHT SADAT'S STATESMANLIKE ATTITUDE AFTER THE FAILURE OF THE KISSINGER MISSION WAS COMMENDABLE BUT DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD OPEN THE DOOR AGAIN TO STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY: GENEVA NOW APPEARED TO BE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE OPEN. BELLEISSUE ADDED THAT FROM REPORTS THE QUAI HAS RECEIVED ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS, IT APPEARS TO THE FRENCH THAT THE US, TOO, SEES NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE AND THAT DESPITE US UNWILLINGNESS PUBLICLY TO LAY BLAME FOR THE NEGOTIATION'S FAILURE, IT CONSIDERS ISRAELI INFLEXIBILITY AS THE MAJOR ELEMENT. HE SAID THE FRENCH AGREE WITH THIS CONCLUSION AND INTEND TO MAKE THE POINT WITH ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WHEN HE VISITS PARIS LATE THIS MONTH (DATES HAVE NOT YET BEEN SETTLED).

4. AS FOR THE SOVIETS, BELLEISSUE THOUGHT THEY ALSO HAD SHOWN MODERATION IN RECENT DAYS. HE SAID THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW BELIEVES THE SOVIETS ARE MORE AWARE THAN IN THE PAST OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH GENEVA PRESENTS AND RECOGNIZE THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PREPARED. IF IT WERE TO FAIL, HE SAID, THE SOVIETS NOW REALIZE THAT THEY WOULD SUFFER MORE THAN THE UNITED STATES FROM THE BREAKDOWN.

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5. COMMENT: BELLEISSUE MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING "POLARIZATION" AT GENEVA AND THE UTILITY OF HAVING ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS TO ACHIEVE THAT AIM. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE ONE OF THE THEMES THE FRENCH WILL STRESS DURING ALLON'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PARIS, AS ON OTHER OCCASIONS.

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